

School District 38 Board of Education, June 21

2012-13 budget approved, including pay increase

By Kate Wetterer and Harriet Halbig
A 2.2 percent pay raise for certified and classified staff

was announced at the June 21 meeting of the District 38 Board of Education. The first pay increase in four years will begin in the fall. The 2012 budget was unanimously approved.

Teachers will also receive bonuses starting at \$100 and increasing by another \$100 for every year they have been affected by the pay freeze, the highest bonus being \$400.

Superintendent John Borman noted that D-38's teachers and staff play the most "critical role" in the district's functioning and expressed regret for not being able to provide a more dramatic pay raise. He said that money may be uncertain, and the board does not intend to promise more than can be guaranteed.

The final goal is to adjust pay so D-38 is more competitive with other school districts and employment opportunities in the area, Borman said.

The budget is balanced, prepared within Colorado's guidelines. It includes a list of unfunded liabilities and is available for public view.

Sixty new students have entered the district thus far, along with 20 more in the new Home School Academy. More students will have to enroll by fall for the district to

reach its funding goals, but current enrollment numbers are consistent with the numbers in other years around this time, so the board is optimistic.

D-38 has a remarkably low number of students on "free lunch" programs, and the food services unit has been self-sustaining and helpful. It was noted that funding to K-12 education is likely to continue to deteriorate, which will be taken into account in the future.

Mill levy override plans

Borman explained two theoretical schedules conceived in hopes of securing a mill levy override this November or in November 2013. Both plans involve educating and bonding with the community to better convey the needs of the school district and discourage the spread of false information about D-38 and its monetary state. The goal is to assure informed voters, whether or not they vote in favor of the bill.

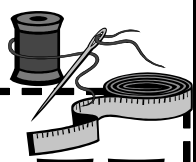
Communication is a vital part of Borman's plans, in order to reach the influential members of society. Special events and presentations may be hosted to foster this communication and relay the district's messages. The board came to no formal decision, though it was noted that there might not be enough time to guarantee an informed audience come this November, so perhaps deferring the bill would be wise.

Nutritional Services modifications

Katie Dubois, Nutritional Services supervisor, presented the board with an overview of the changes D-38 is making in school lunch and breakfast programs. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act decrees schools must serve 1 percent or skim milk and 100 percent whole grain products, reduce sodium, and insist students take fruits and vegetables with each full school lunch. Portions are measured by weight, now, which means protein and bread servings

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